THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—OTHELLO.

No. 2509 *Monday, Dec.* 28, 1829. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing!"—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

On Saturday evening after the play of *The Royal Fugitive*, the Christmas Pantomime was produced at this Theatre. It is entitled *Harlequin and Cock Robin; or, Vulcan and Venus.* Like all the late Pantomimes, this depends upon its scenery for success; much of this is very beautiful, but a Pantomime should be made more amusing than this, or any of its late predecessors; but we fear this will be found even duller than any of its 'buried ancestry;' whatever may be said of the march of intellect there is evidently no march of Pantomime. All our readers will remember the pathetic nursery story of the death and burial of Cock Robin; except that the catastrophe is produced through the agency of Vulcan, who instigates the sparrow to commit the murder, to annoy Venus the protectress of the Robin, the story in no respect differs from the celebrated nursery version;—there are the same agents, the sparrow, the fly, the fish and the bull; Cock Robin is shot, and immediately after his funeral the usual Pantomime tricks commence, and go on, until finally, Vulcan, Venus, and the rest, meet in the bower of Venus, and are made happy. Early in the Pantomime, a cry was raised for Mr. Parsloe, when Mr. Bartley came forward and stated, that in consequence of an accident which occurred to him at rehearsal on Thursday he was unable to appear, but would do so as soon as sufficiently recovered. The machinery worked uncommonly well.—The house was not full.

Drury Lane Theatre.

After the Tragedy of *Jane Shore*, the new grand Christmas Pantomime was produced at this house on Saturday night; it is entitled *Jack in the Box; or, Harlequin and the Princess of the Hidden Island*, and was completely successful, for though many of the tricks would not act, the audience was in such perfect good humor and delight with the beauty of the scenery that scarcely a note of disapprobation was heard. It has been the fashion of late years to make the success of the Pantomime entirely depend upon the painter and the machinist, and the magic pencil of Stanfield was never more efficiently exerted than on the present occasion; but the genius of Pantomime has fled our stage; formerly this species of amusement abounded with so much drollery and good humored satire on the prevailing follies of the day, that shouts of laughter attended its whole progress; the *lover* also, as a living caricature of the fopperies of fashion, tended to greatly heighten the fun, but he, alas! has been discarded.

But to return to *Jack in the Box*, the opening of which discovers to us the entombing of Jack in an adamant box by Peep-ho, (Barnes)

for disclosing the secret of the Hidden Island to Heigh-ho, (Howell) who, with his servant, Run-go, (Grimaldi) is in search of the Princess Luciana, (Miss Ryal). We are then transported to the Palace of the Giant, (who, with his wife, were figures 18 or 20 feet high, and admirably managed); at dinner his giantship takes a drop too much, when Heigh Ho cuts off his hand, and thus secures the magic signet, which enables him eventually to rescue Jack from the box, who, in gratitude, leads him to the City of the Mists, where he finds the Princess, and they are, by a *coup de main*, converted into Harlequin and Columbine, and the usual bustle of the Pantomime commences.—There was no novelty in the tricks, and, as we said before, the machinery moved but clumsily. The grand feature of the piece, and that which called forth the most enthusiastic cheers, was the Diorama, which in itself is worth the price of admission, ending with a stupendous fall of real water.—The house was quite full at second price.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Dear Mr. Editor, I address you from the Cigar Divan, King-street, Covent Garden, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines, and play a game of Chess—delightful place——Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world, at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

On Monday, must take another peep at the two grand views, at the Diorama, Regent's Park—was puzzled to decide which was the most beautiful, St. Peter's, or the Village of Thiers—both exquisitely painted—the pictorial illusion complete—the water flowing, smoke ascending, sun shining—quite nature itself.—Had difficulty to persuade a fair lady next me, that we were really viewing merely pictures. Shall put off my journey to Italy, as I'm told, *sub rosa*, we shall have other views from that classic soil; and if as good as St. Peter's will satisfy me.

On my return through Regent Street I step in to see the Wonders of Nature, displayed by Arts, at the Cosmorama.—The Palace of the Grand Seignor, The City of Grand Cairo, Grand Temple of Edfou in Egypt, Cherbourg, Cape St. Vincent, Mont St. Gothard, with the Devil's Bridge and the Falls of the Reuss in motion, and the last terrific Eruption of Mount Vesuvius—truly awful!—with others not less interesting; forming together her 14 Views, being the largest ever exhibited in London.

On Tuesday, I drop into the Exhibition of Sculpture, in Old Bond Street, to view the figures, life size, of Tam O'Shanter and Souter Johnny—work of a self-taught artist, James Thom—delighted beyond measure—fully expected to hear Tam's uproarious laugh—the expression so perfect; *pose* of figures admirable. Whoever has read Burns, (and who has not?) must see them—This very ingenious Exhibition closes in the course of a few weeks.

On Wednesday, previous to visiting 'Change, I step into the Paul's Head Assembly Rooms, Cateaton Street—inspect the magnificent Exhibition of Musical and Mechanical Automa—Two Automaton Trumpeters, as large as life, Musical Lady, Juvenile Artist, Rope Dancer, Magician, Walking Figure, a magnificent Vase, made by order of Napoleon, Birds, Beasts, &c.

On Friday, I drop in to examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle-Work, in Leicester Square.

I daily, between 1 and 4, qualify Mrs. Pry's discordant notes with some harmony divine, and may be found at *The Apollonicon*, 101, St. Martin's Lane.—Market and Fishermen's Chorus, from the Opera of Masaniello, enchanting! but I intrude—beg pardon. Your's, PAUL PRY.

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All Communications must be post paid.—Printing in General.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Tragedy of

The Earl of Essex.

The Earl of Essex, Mr G. BENNETT, (first. ap. these four years,)
Earl of Southampton, Mr ABBOTT, Lieutenant, Mr IRWIN,
Lord Burleigh, Mr EGERTON, Sir Walter Raleigh, Mr EVANS.
Queen Elizabeth, Miss LACY,
Countesses of Nottingham & Rutland, Mrs VINING & Miss LAWRENCE
To conclude with (2d time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin and Cock Robin;

Or Vulcan and Venus.

With new Music, Scenery, Machinery, Dresses, and Decorations. The whole produced under the direction of Mr FARLEY.

Vulcan, Mr FULLER, Cyclops, Messrs. Purday, Ransford, Tett, &c.
Æsop, Mr MEARS, Clout, the Farmer, Mr HENRY,
Hobnail, his Apprentice, (afterwards Whirligig) Mr E. J. PARSLOE,
Cuddie, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr ELLAR,
Clown..... PAULO, Pantaloon.....Mr F. SUTTON,
Sally, (afterwards Columbine) Miss EGAN,
Widow Wiggins, Mr MILLER, Dame Dovepigbee, Mr TURNOUR,
Fat Farmer, Mr Griffiths, Spirit of Fire, Master Harvey,
Mons. Sulphuriate, (the Fire King) Mons. Arsenic,
Doctor, Mr Simpson, The Black Family, by the Messrs. White,
Venus, Miss RYALS, Cupid, Miss F. MARSHALL.

New Splendid Scenery.

Scene 1 The Palace of Vulcan (Grieve)—2 The Village of Robin's Nest on a Frosty Morning (Grieve)—3 A Landscape, with Æsop's Cottage (Grieve)—4 The Ruins of the Eagle Tower by Moonlight, in which is the Court of the Birds sitting in Judgment (Grieve)—The Star of Venus—5 The Moving Palm-Tree Grove (T. Grieve) 6 Cottage of a Market Gardener (W. Grieve)—7 The Outside of the Green Man Inn (W. Grieve)—8 The Inclosure of St. James's Park, and the Royal Palace (T. Grieve)—9 The Spread Eagle Tavern, and Baker's Shop (Finley)—10 The Bake House (Finley) 11 The Fire King's Exhibition Room (Finley)—12 Covent Garden Market (Pugh)—13 New Covent Garden Market, by Moonlight, (Pugh)—14 The Watch House (Finley)—15 View on the River Thames, with Westminster Abbey, from the Boat-House (T. Grieve) 16 The Picture Gallery (W. Grieve)—17 The Saloon of the New Bazaar, Oxford Street (Finley)—18 ROBERTS'S MOVING DIORAMA OF THE POLAR EXPEDITION, representing the progress of the Hecla and Fury, in their endeavours to discover a North West Passage, beginning with---1 Deptford—2 Discovery Prison Ship—3 Greenwich—4 Long Reach—5 Gravesend—6 A Line-of-Battle Ship off Sheerness—7 The Nore—8 The Ocean, by Moonlight—9 Hecla and Fury off Cape Farewell—10 Hudson's Bay—11 Baffin's Bay, 12 Melville Island, with Loss of the Fury—13 Final arrival of the Hecla in the Bay of Jeddo. 19 The Cave of Jamna (Grieve)—20 The Palace and Bower of Venus (Grieve).

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Tragedy of

Richard the Third.

King Henry, Mr AITKEN, Duke of Gloster, Mr KEAN,
Duke of Buckingham, Mr COOPER, Richmond, Mr WALLACK,
Queen Elizabeth, Mrs FAUCIT, Lady Anne, Miss FAUCIT.

To conclude with (2nd time) a new Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Jack in the Box;

Or, Harlequin and the Princess

OF THE HIDDEN ISLAND.

The Music by T. Cooke. The whole Invented by Mr W. Barrymore,
Flickerflame the Goblin, Miss LANE, Glimmer, Mr SHERIFF,
Jack in the Box. Mr RICHARDSON, Blueblaze, Mr S. JONES,
Peep-Ho, Guardian of the Adamant Box, & Pantaloon, Mr BARNES.
High-ho, a Knight on a love-errand, & Harlequin, Mr HOWELL,
Rum-go, his Squire and Follower, & Clown, Mr J. S. GRIMALDI,
Luciana, Princess of the Hidden Island, & Columbine, Miss RYAL,
Ho-fum, the Giant Genius, Mr Altesse, Hi-fum, Madame Treslong,
Fum-she, the Giant's only Child, Mr WIELAND,
Mammi Pappi, her Nurse, Mr Bartlett, Kee-loc, Mr Brady,
Stoo-Pan, the Giant's Head Cook, Mr CHIKINI,
Hon. Mr Trifletime, with a Song, Miss POOL, *first Appearance*,
Doctor Syntax, Mr Eaton, Master Griskin, Mr Wieland,
Old Flying Dutchman, Mr Salter, New Flying Dutchman, Mr Lapwing,
Siamese Youths, with an united Pas Deux, Mess. Wieland & Chikini,
Fisherman, with a Parody, Mr Eaton,
Mushapug, the Monkey, the Phænomenon, Mvn. VON KLESHNIG,

New Grand Scenery.

Scene 1 The Enchanted Grove and Goblin's Abode (Stanfield) With Fairy Vision of the Hidden Island. 2 Exterior of Ho-Fum's Palace (Andrews) 3 The Giant's Dining Parlour (Marinari) 4 Ascent to the burning Mount, with Beacon Light (Stanfield) 5 The Crater, by Moonlight, (Stanfield) 6 Splendid City of the Mists in the Hidden Island (Stanfield) 7 Lime-kilns, near Gravesend (Andrews) 8 New Post Office at 8 A. M. (Marinari) 9 The West End at 9 A. M. (Marinari) 10 A little Way out of Town (Andrews) 11 Veluti in Speculum (Andrews) with a Pas de Deux by Mr Howell & Miss Ryal, Les Ombres, Mr Chikini & Miss Macdonald. 12 The Half-Way House (Andrews) 13 Cheesemonger's Shop and Wine Vaults (Adams) 14 Mount Edgecombe (Stanfield) 15 Gloucester Coffee House—Snowy Night (Andrews),

Stanfield's Grand Local Diorama,

Displaying—Windsor—Town and Castle of Windsor—The River near Broens Meadow, Sunset, with Eaton, by Moonlight—Windsor Great Park—The Castle—Plantations near the Royal Lodge—Virginia Waters—The Royal Pavilion—The Upper Lake—The Dry Arch—To conclude with a grand Display of the Falls of the Virginia Waters, in which 30 tons of Water will be introduced.